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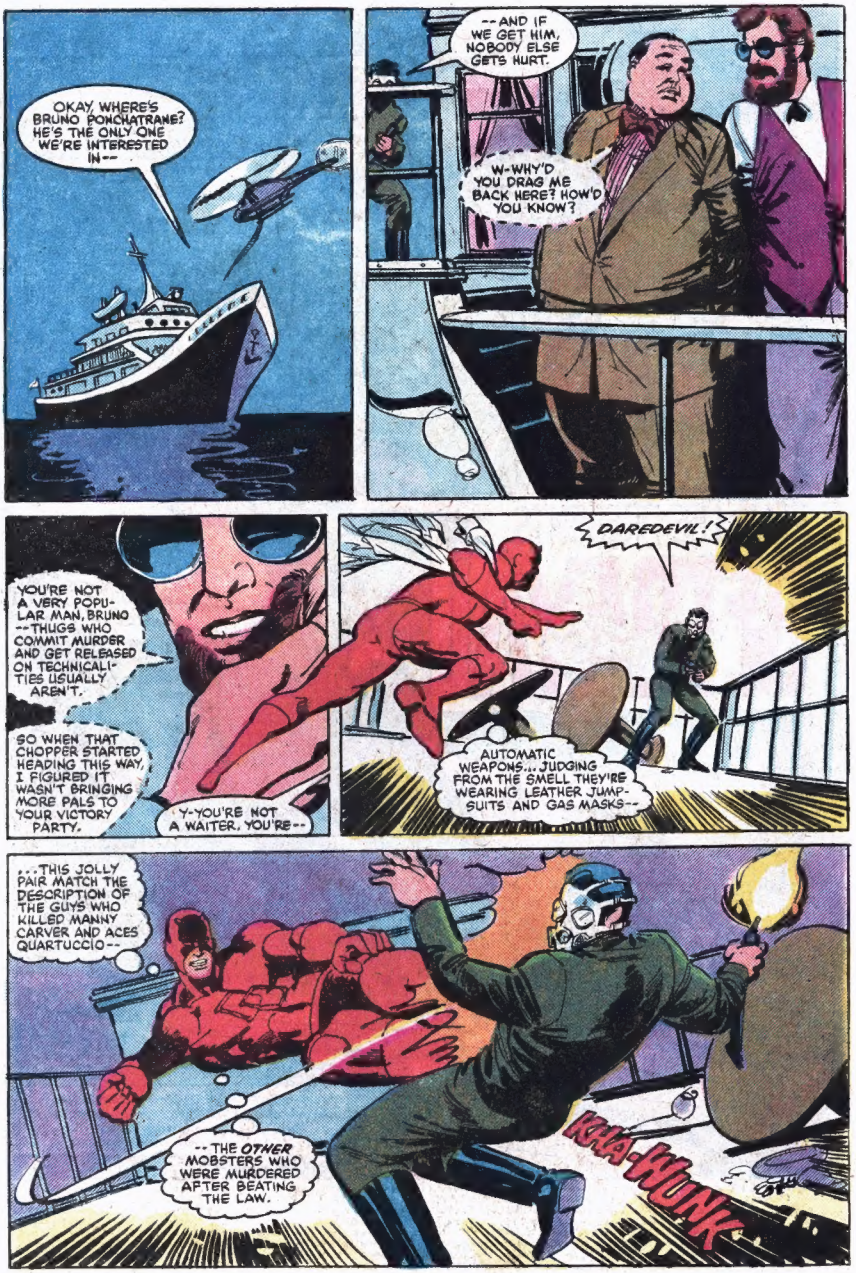
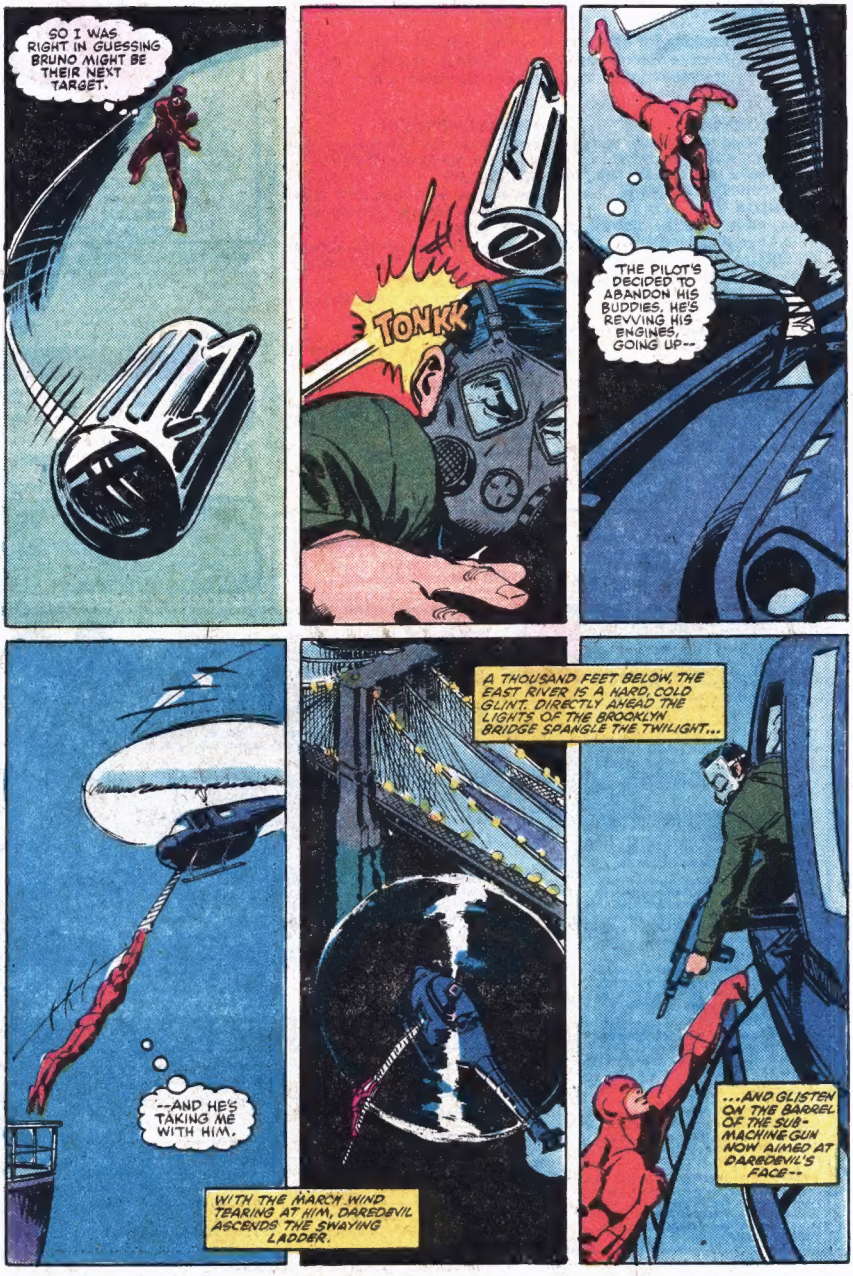
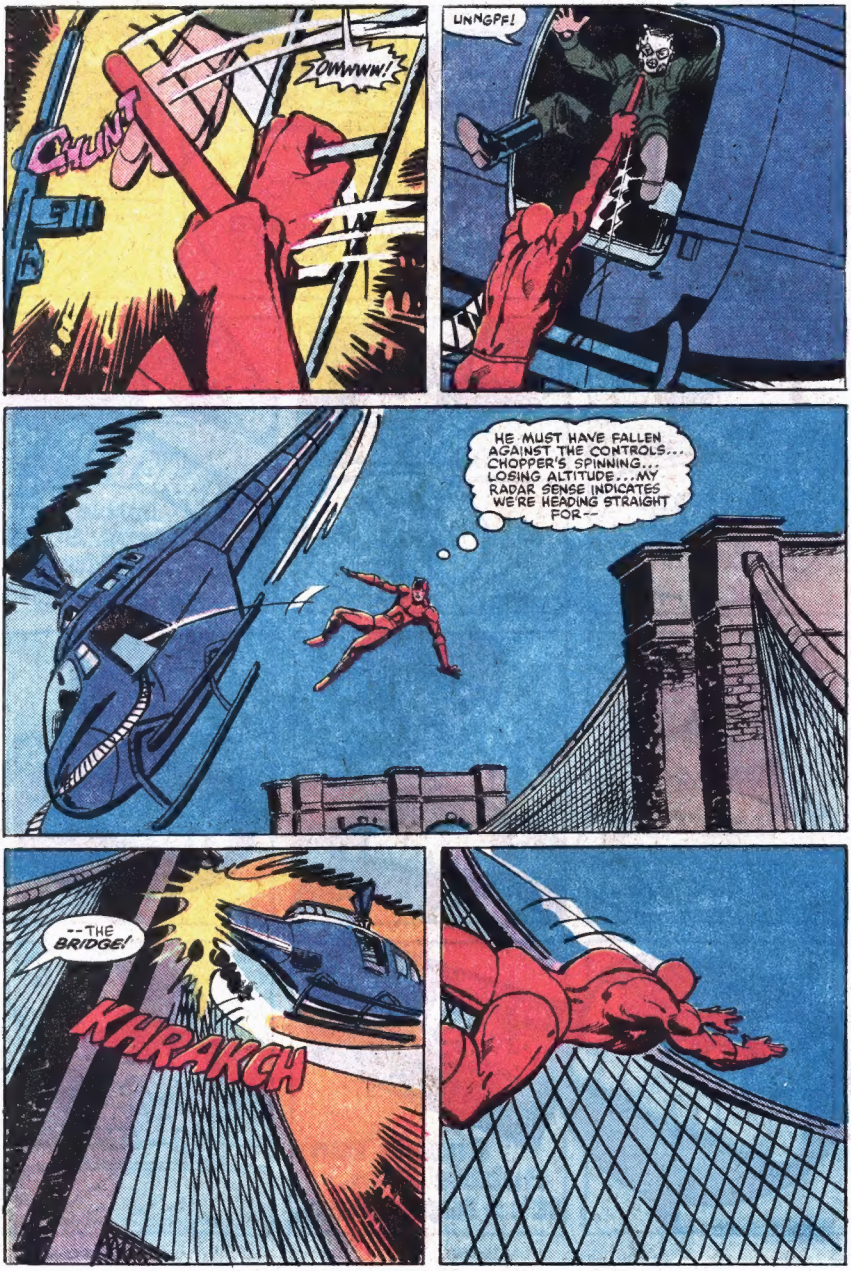
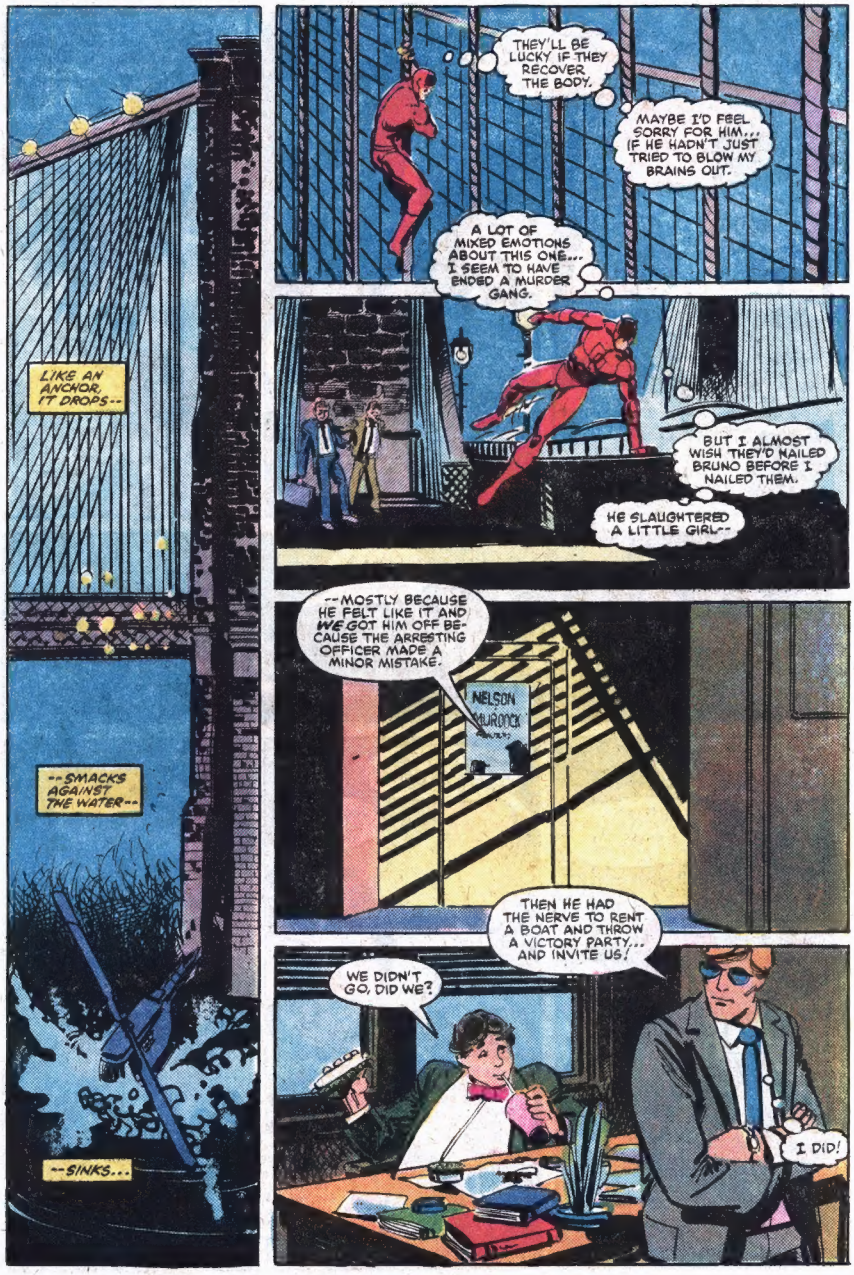

OKAY, WHERE'S BRUNO PONCHATRANE? HE'S THE ONLY ONE WE'RE INTERESTED IN--
--AND IF WE GET HIM, NOBODY ELSE GETS HURT.
W-WHY'D YOU DRAG ME BACK HERE? HOW'D YOU KNOW?
YOU'RE NOT A VERY POPULAR MAN, BRUNO --THUGS WHO COMMIT MURDER AND GET RELEASED ON TECHNICALITIES USUALLY AREN'T.
SO WHEN THAT CHOPPER STARTED HEADING THIS WAY, I FIGURED IT WASN'T BRINGING MORE PALS TO YOUR VICTORY PARTY.
Y-YOU'RE NOT A WAITER, YOU'RE--
DAREDEVIL!
AUTOMATIC WEAPONS... JUDGING FROM THE SMELL THEY'RE WEARING LEATHER JUMPSUITS AND GAS MASKS--
...THIS JOLLY PAIR MATCH THE DESCRIPTION OF THE GUYS WHO KILLED MANNY CARVER AND ACES QUARTUCCIO--
-- THE OTHER MOBSTERS WHO WERE MURDERED AFTER BEATING THE LAW.
KAA-WUNK


SO I WAS RIGHT IN GUESSING BRUNO MIGHT BE THEIR NEXT TARGET.
TONKK
THE PILOT'S DECIDED TO ABANDON HIS BUDDIES. HE'S REVVING HIS ENGINES, GOING UP--
--AND HE'S TAKING ME WITH HIM.
WITH THE MARCH WIND TEARING AT HIM, DAREDEVIL ASCENDS THE SWAYING LADDER.
A THOUSAND FEET BELOW, THE EAST RIVER IS A HARD, COLD GLINT. DIRECTLY AHEAD THE LIGHTS OF THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE SPANGLE THE TWILIGHT...
...AND GLISTEN ON THE BARREL OF THE SUB-MACHINE GUN NOW AIMED AT DAREDEVIL'S FACE--


CHUNK
OWWWW!
UNNGPF!
HE MUST HAVE FALLEN AGAINST THE CONTROLS... CHOPPER'S SPINNING... LOSING ALTITUDE...MY RADAR SENSE INDICATES WE'RE HEADING STRAIGHT FOR--
--THE BRIDGE!
KHRAKCH


LIKE AN ANCHOR, IT DROPS--
--SMACKS AGAINST THE WATER--
--SINKS...
THEY'LL BE LUCKY IF THEY RECOVER THE BODY.
MAYBE I'D FEEL SORRY FOR HIM... IF HE HADN'T JUST TRIED TO BLOW MY BRAINS OUT.
A LOT OF MIXED EMOTIONS ABOUT THIS ONE... I SEEM TO HAVE ENDED A MURDER GANG.
BUT I ALMOST WISH THEY'D NAILED BRUNO BEFORE I NAILED THEM.
HE SLAUGHTERED A LITTLE GIRL--
--MOSTLY BECAUSE HE FELT LIKE IT AND WE GOT HIM OFF BECAUSE THE ARRESTING OFFICER MADE A MINOR MISTAKE.
NELSON
THEN HE HAD THE NERVE TO RENT A BOAT AND THROW A VICTORY PARTY... AND INVITE US!
WE DIDN'T GO, DID WE?
I DID!

LOOK, MATT, OUR JOB ISN'T TO JUDGE THESE BOZOS. IT'S TO DEFEND THEM. WE DO THAT ANY WAY WE CAN OR WE FIND ANOTHER LINE OF WORK.
I WASN'T HAPPY ABOUT TAKING BRUNO AS A CLIENT, BUT I DIDN'T SEE HOW WE COULD ETHICALLY REFUSE HIM.
I KNOW, FOGGY. I'M NOT QUESTIONING YOUR MOTIVES --AND YOU CERTAINLY MOUNTED AN EFFECTIVE DEFENSE...
HEY, SPEAKING OF PARTIES... YOU SHOWING UP AT NEDDA'S PENTHOUSE TONIGHT?
I DON'T THINK SO. I HEARD HEATHER WILL BE THERE AND...WELL, I'D RATHER NOT MEET HER YET.
THAT EVENING...
TONY, HON, I'M GONNA MINGLE.
OKAY, HEATHER, I'LL JUST LISTEN TO HARRY A LITTLE LONGER. HARRY'S GREAT.
TAKE MY BROTHER-IN-LAW ...I WON'T SAY HE'S A DRUNK...
--BUT LAST WEEK HIS BREATH MELTED MY TIE CLASP.
MS. GLENN? HEATHER GLENN?
I'M SORRY ...I CAN'T 'MEMBER YOUR NAME...I'M SUCH A BUBBLE HEAD...
NOT AT ALL. WE'VE NEVER MET. I'M TARKINGTON BROWN. I'M WITH THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.
DELIGHTED, MR. BROWN.

AN HOUR LATER, IN CENTRAL PARK...
...SO I HAVEN'T SEEN MATT IN SIX WEEKS, SINCE WE BROKE UP.
YOU MISS HIM?
NOT 'ZACKLY, TARK. IT'S MORE LIKE...THINKING ABOUT HIM MAKES ME CRAZY.
I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M TELLIN' YOU ALL THIS STUFF. I GUESS I GOTTA TELL SOMEBODY--
--'N' I FEEL I CAN TRUST YOU SOMEHOW.
YOU CAN.
NOW, THIS NEX' THING I SHOULDN'T TELL EVEN YOU 'N' YOU GOTTA PROMISE NEVER, NEVER TO TELL 'NOTHER SOUL NO MATTER WHAT!
IT'S DAREDEVIL. IF ONLY MATT WEREN'T DAREDEVIL, HE COULD *ACCEPT* ME! BUT THE HERO PART OF HIM KEEPS WANTING TO *PROTECT* ME 'N' I NEED HIS LOVE, NOT HIS PROTECTION.
HEATHER... LET ME BE CERTAIN I UNDERSTAND YOU. YOU'RE SAYING THAT MATTHEW MURDOCK IS DAREDEVIL?
UH-HUH. 'N' THAT'S WHY IT DIDN'T WORK OUT FOR US.
YOU BELIEVE ME, DON' YOU?
YES, I DO. YOU'VE HAD A BIT TOO MUCH TO DRINK TO BE LYING.
TAXI!

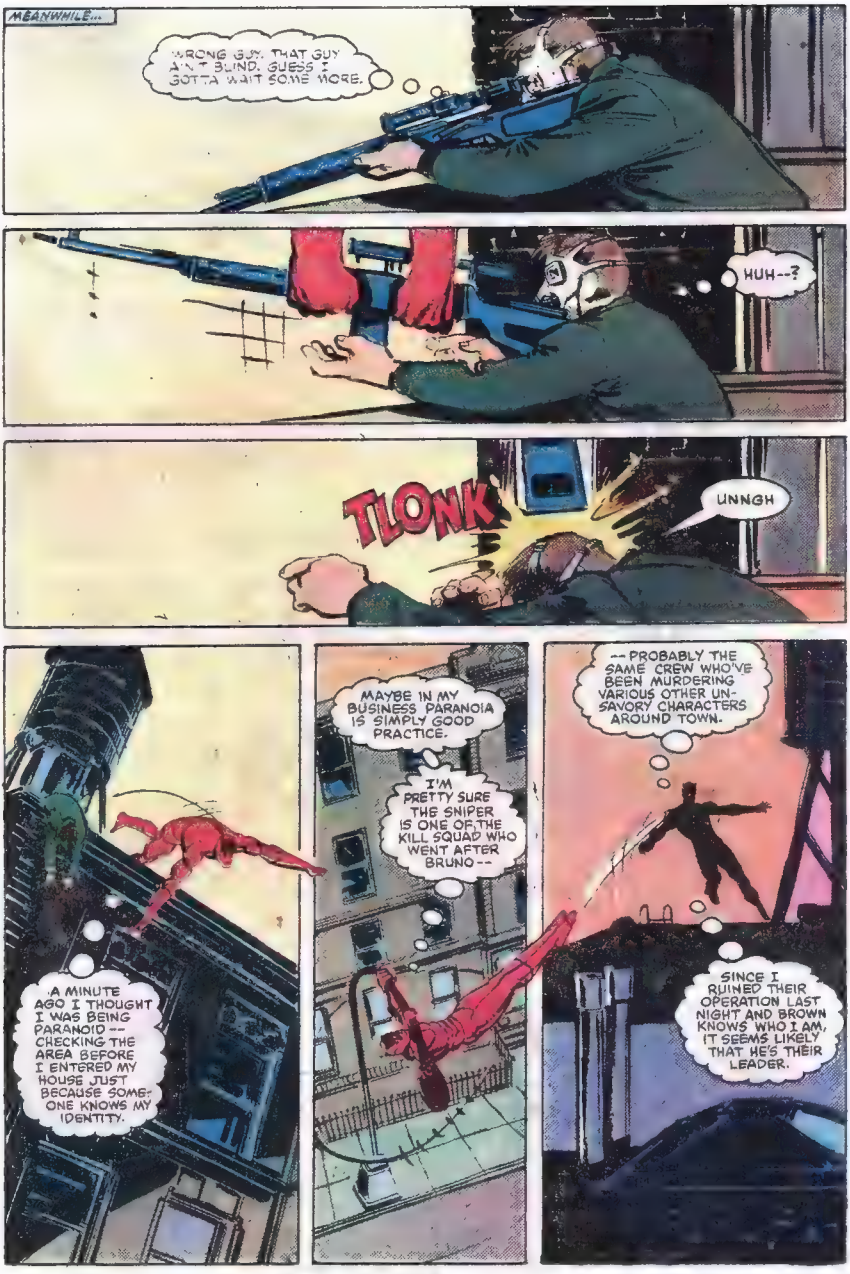
WE'LL BE MAKING TWO STOPS, DRIVER. FIRST WE'LL DROP THE LADY ON THE UPPER EAST SIDE AND THEN WE'LL GO DOWNTOWN--
"--TO A CERTAIN HOTEL NEAR THE FULTON FISH MARKET..."
WE'RE ALL HERE?
YEAH, 'CEPT FOR CHARLIE--
--HE PULLED STAKE OUT DUTY TONIGHT.
WE GONNA GET ANOTHER SHOT AT WHACKING OUT BRUNO?
WE CAN FILL HIM IN LATER.
GENTLEMEN, WE ARE IN A POSITION TO MAKE ANOTHER CONTRIBUTION.
NO, NOT AT THIS TIME. PERHAPS IN A FEW WEEKS. NO. OUR NEXT TARGET IS AN ATTORNEY.
MATTHEW MURDOCK.
AIN'T HE THE PARTNER OF THAT NELSON-- THE SHYSTER WHO GOT BRUNO SPRUNG?
THE SAME.
GENTLEMEN, WHEN YOU AGREED TO WORK WITH ME ON THIS PROJECT, YOU ALSO AGREED NOT TO ASK UNNECESSARY QUESTIONS.
SO WHY NOT DUST NELSON?
PROJECTS SIMILAR TO OURS HAVE BEEN THWARTED IN THE PAST BY TOO MANY KNOWING TOO MUCH--

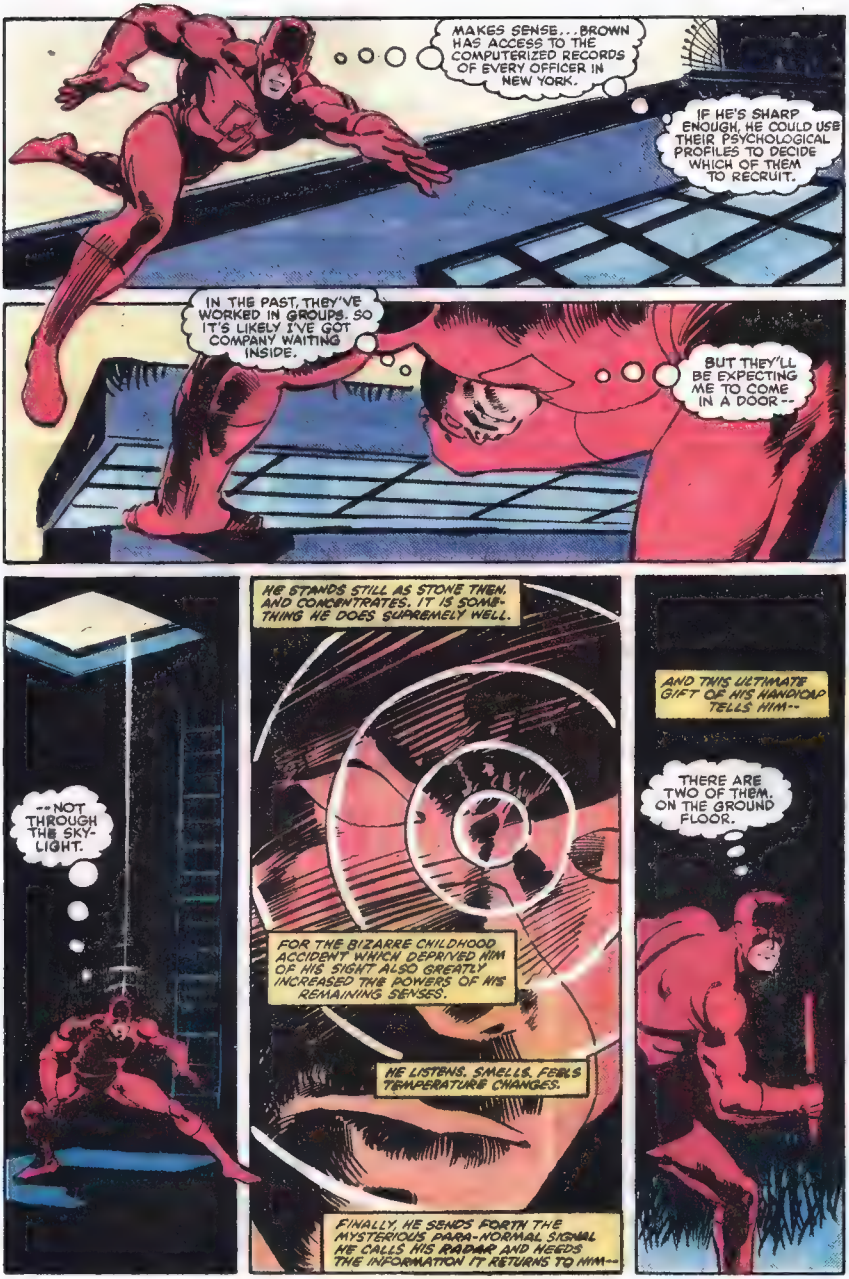
--THE SO-CALLED MURDER SQUAD IN ARGENTINA AND THE GROUP IN SAN FRANCISCO, FOR EXAMPLE.
MUST I REMIND YOU OF YOUR VOW OF OBEDIENCE TO ME? HAVE I FAILED YOU YET?
THEN TRUST ME. MURDOCK IS A FAR GREATER THREAT TO A FREE SOCIETY THAN NELSON.
YOU ARE EXPERTS. USE YOUR EXPERTISE. KILL HIM.
THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
I BETRAYED HIM. I TOLD THAT GUY WHAT'S-HIS-NAME MATT'S SECRET.
O MY GOD
AND ACROSS TOWN--
DARNDEST THING, MATT. THE PASSENGERS ON BRUNO'S BOAT SWORE THAT THE GUNMEN DAREDEVIL ACED WERE TAKEN ASHORE BY COPS--
WHAT SHOULD THEY BE TAKEN ASHORE BY? GIRL SCOUTS?
BECKY, AS A COMEDIAN YOU'RE A TERRIFIC SECRETARY.
DON'T INTERRUPT.
ANYWAY, MATT, THE BOYS AT HEADQUARTERS HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO RECORD OF THEM BEING BOOKED ...OR EVEN HELD.
WEIRD, HUH?

MAYBE NOT. I'M BEGINNING TO GET AN IDEA...
MATT! I'VE GOT TO SPEAK WITH YOU--
--IN PRIVATE.
IF IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT, HEATHER ...I GUESS WE CAN USE MY OFFICE.
YOU THINK THERE'S A RECONCILIATION IN THE OFFING?
I HOPE NOT.
YOU DID WHAT?
I SAID I TOLD TARKINGTON BROWN THAT YOU'RE DARDEVIL. I WAS DRUNK.
I'M SORRY.
YOUR BEING SORRY DOES NOT EXACTLY DO ME A FAT LOT OF GOOD.
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY, MATT. I'VE PROVEN YOU WERE RIGHT. I'VE SHOWN YOU I'M THE BRAINLESS LITTLE LOSER YOU CLAIM I AM.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? KILL ME?
GET OUT OF HERE, HEATHER.
BECKY, GET ME EVERYTHING ON TARKINGTON BROWN. HE'S THE MAYOR'S COMPUTER EXPERT... CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.
EVERYTHING, BECKY.

THEN--
I'LL LEVEL WITH YOU, TARK. THERE'S BEEN NO CHANGE IN YOUR CONDITION, BUT IF YOU'D SLOW DOWN, YOU MIGHT LIVE AN EXTRA YEAR -- OR TWO.
NO THANKS, DOCTOR! I'D RATHER MAKE WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS I CAN WHILE I CAN.
THAT'S YOUR CHOICE. I'LL SEE YOU NEXT WEEK.
'SCUSE ME.
MR. BROWN... TARKINGTON--I HATE TO BARGE IN WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT--
NOT AT ALL, HEATHER. COME IN. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
IT'S ABOUT WHAT I TOLD YOU LAST NIGHT.
ABOUT MATTHEW MURDOCK AND DAREDEVIL?
I LIED. I WAS TRYING TO IMPRESS YOU. THERE ISN'T A BIT OF TRUTH IN WHAT I SAID. IT'S ABSURD, IN FACT. ABSOLUTE NONSENSE.
ON THE CONTRARY, HEATHER MY DEAR--
I'M CONVINCED EVERY WORD WAS TRUE. I RAN SEVERAL CHECKS THROUGH THE COMPUTERS AND FOUND ABSOLUTELY NO REASON WHY MURDOCK COULDN'T BE DAREDEVIL.
MATT'S BLIND.
POSITIVELY BRILLIANT PLOY, BY PRETENDING TO BE SIGHTLESS, HE INSURES THAT NO ONE WILL GUESS HIS IDENTITY.
ARE YOU GOING TO TELL?
NOT UNTIL HE'S DEAD. NOT UNTIL YOU'RE BOTH DEAD!

YOU DO REALIZE YOU MUST DIE? YOU'RE A BIT FLIGHTY, BUT YOU'RE NOT STUPID...SO WHEN MURDOCK IS KILLED TODAY, YOU'RE LIKELY TO RECALL WHAT YOU TOLD ME--
MATT KILLED?
YES. AT THIS MOMENT HIS ASSASSINS ARE WAITING--
"--ONE ON A ROOFTOP ACROSS FROM HIS BUILDING WITH A HIGH-POWER MILITARY SNIPER RIFLE--
"--TWO INSIDE THE HOUSE ARMED WITH SUBMACHINE GUNS AND MAGNUM REVOLVERS--
"-- AND A FOURTH WITH A POISON GAS WEAPON--"
--A COLORLESS, ODORLESS GAS WHICH A VICTIM CANNOT DETECT UNTIL IT DROPS HIM.
WHY?
TO MAKE, MY DEAR HEATHER, A CONTRIBUTION. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT FOR MY PLANS TO SUCCEED--
--DAREDEVIL MUST BE ELIMINATED.

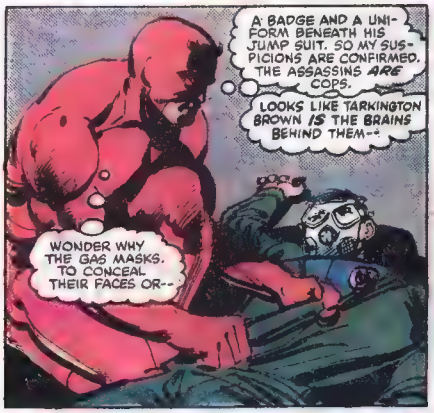

MEANWHILE...
WRONG GUY. THAT GUY AIN'T BLIND. GUESS I GOTTA WAIT SOME MORE.
HUH--?
TLONK
UNNGH
A MINUTE AGO I THOUGHT I WAS BEING PARANOID -- CHECKING THE AREA BEFORE I ENTERED MY HOUSE JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE KNOWS MY IDENTITY.
MAYBE IN MY BUSINESS PARANOIA IS SIMPLY GOOD PRACTICE.
I'M PRETTY SURE THE SNIPER IS ONE OF THE KILL SQUAD WHO WENT AFTER BRUNO--
--PROBABLY THE SAME CREW WHO'VE BEEN MURDERING VARIOUS OTHER UNSAVORY CHARACTERS AROUND TOWN.
SINCE I RUINED THEIR OPERATION LAST NIGHT AND BROWN KNOWS WHO I AM, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT HE'S THEIR LEADER.


MAKES SENSE... BROWN HAS ACCESS TO THE COMPUTERIZED RECORDS OF EVERY OFFICER IN NEW YORK.
IF HE'S SHARP ENOUGH, HE COULD USE THEIR PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILES TO DECIDE WHICH OF THEM TO RECRUIT.
IN THE PAST, THEY'VE WORKED IN GROUPS. SO IT'S LIKELY I'VE GOT COMPANY WAITING INSIDE.
BUT THEY'LL BE EXPECTING ME TO COME IN A DOOR--
--NOT THROUGH THE SKY-LIGHT.
HE STANDS STILL AS STONE THEN, AND CONCENTRATES. IT IS SOMETHING HE DOES SUPREMELY WELL.
FOR THE BIZARRE CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT WHICH DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SIGHT ALSO GREATLY INCREASED THE POWERS OF HIS REMAINING SENSES.
HE LISTENS. SMELLS. FEELS TEMPERATURE CHANGES.
FINALLY, HE SENDS FORTH THE MYSTERIOUS PARA-NORMAL SIGNAL HE CALLS HIS RADAR AND NEEDS THE INFORMATION IT RETURNS TO HIM--
AND THIS ULTIMATE GIFT OF HIS HANDICAP TELLS HIM--
THERE ARE TWO OF THEM, ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

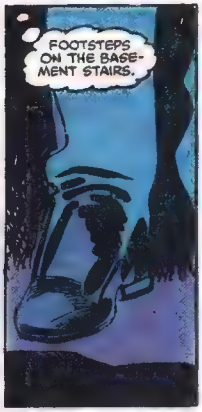
ONE IN THE FOYER BY THE FRONT DOOR--
--THE SECOND A FEW FEET TO THE RIGHT IN MY PRIVATE OFFICE.
THE MAN IN THE FOYER WILL BE NO PROBLEM. HE'S LOCATED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRCASE--IN A DIRECT LINE FROM WHERE I'M STANDING.
MY CLUB WILL TAKE HIM OUT.
THONK!
UNNG
I HEARD A NOISE. YOU OK--
HE'S BEEN ZAPPED...BY THAT BATON LYING THERE.
THAT SPELLS DAREDEVIL.

IT HADDA COME FROM THE TOP OF THE STEPS.
takakatakakatakata
KRA-TZZH
HE'S WELL TRAINED. REACTED ALMOST INSTANTLY, COVERING THE AREA WITH FIRE--AND BLOWING AWAY SOME OF MY BEST KNICK-KNACKS IN THE PROCESS.
PERILS OF BEING A HOMEOWNER.
HE'LL FIRE FOR ANOTHER SECOND OR TWO--
--THEN WAIT A SECOND TO SEE IF MY BODY COMES TUMBLING DOWN--
--BEFORE DECIDING ON HIS NEXT MOVE, WHICH GIVES ME PLENTY OF TIME TO--

SURPRISE!
KRASH


A BADGE AND A UNIFORM BENEATH HIS JUMP SUIT. SO MY SUSPICIONS ARE CONFIRMED. THE ASSASSINS *ARE* COPS.
LOOKS LIKE TARKINGTON BROWN *IS* THE BRAINS BEHIND THEM--
WONDER WHY THE GAS MASKS. TO CONCEAL THEIR FACES OR--

EH--?


FOOTSTEPS ON THE BASEMENT STAIRS.

BUT THIS ONE'S ARMED DIFFERENTLY. NO SUBMACHINE GUN. A HEAVY TANK ON HIS BACK. HOSE. NOZZLE.

GAS...UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE ...SHOOTING OUT AS FAST AS WATER FROM A FIRE HOSE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE QUIET. I HEARD YOU COMING. I HAD TIME TO BORROW YOUR PAL'S BREATHING APPARATUS.
UNNGHF
NOW TO GET THAT ONE OUTSIDE BEFORE THE GAS AFFECTS HIM.
AND...
THAT'S DAREDEVIL, ISN'T IT? COMIN' OUTTA MURDOCK'S?
YEAH. LOOKS LIKE.
ANY TROUBLE, MISTER?
NO...NONE AT ALL, OFFICERS. MY FRIEND HERE'S JUST A BIT UNDER THE WEATHER.
SHOULD I TRUST THEM? THEY COULD BE WITH THE MURDER SQUAD.
I SUPPOSE I HAVE TO--UNLESS I WANT TO DRAG THIS KILLER AROUND WITH ME.
IF I GET BROWN, I CAN GET THE LOT OF THEM.

AND--
SOON, MY ASSOCIATES SHOULD PHONE TO SAY THE BUSINESS WITH MURDOCK-- OR, IF YOU PREFER-- DAREDEVIL IS CONCLUDED.
THEN I SHALL BE FORCED TO CONCLUDE MY BUSINESS WITH YOU.
WHY ME? I'M NOT A CRIMINAL.
I'M NOT ONE OF YOUR SCUM OF THE EARTH. I'M AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER. I'M AS INNOCENT AS ANYONE.
TRUE. BUT UNFORTUNATELY, YOU ARE IN THE WAY.
YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO INTERFERE-- AS IS DAREDEVIL. THEREFORE, TO MY GREAT REGRET, YOU MUST BE ELIMINATED. KILLED.
MORE COFFEE?
TARK?
YES?
OWWW

HELP! HELP! SAVE ME SOMEBODY! HELP!
LOUSY, STINKING LITTLE--
HEEELLLP!
WACK!
INSIDE, BROWN. WE'RE GOING TO TALK FOR A MINUTE OR TWO. THEN I'M GOING TO BOUNCE YOU DOWNTOWN.
IF YOU'RE LUCKY, YOU'LL BE ALIVE WHEN YOU ARRIVE!
HOW DID YOU--?
I'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS. I ONLY HAVE ONE: WHY? WHY TRY TO ICE ME?
WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE.
NO, WE'RE NOT. YOU'RE ON *THEIR* SIDE... THE WEAKLINGS. YOU SEE THE PROBLEM BUT YOU DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO SOLVE IT.
NOT YOU, NOT THE POLITICIANS, NOT THE POLICE.
THERE'S A WAR AND WE'RE LOSING, AND THE PUNKS AND THE TERRORISTS AND THE HOODLUMS ARE WINNING.
THERE'S ONLY ONE SOLUTION. BE MORE RUTHLESS THAN THEY ARE.
ELIMINATE THEM. KILL THEM.

IN THE PROCESS, YOU'RE WILLING TO KILL PEOPLE LIKE HEATHER.
THERE ARE ALWAYS CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN A WAR.
THAT'S THE KIND OF CHEAP-JACK EXCUSE MEN LIKE YOU ALWAYS USE--
--TO JUSTIFY THEIR OWN INSANITY.
YOU'RE A LOONEY-TUNE, TARK. YOU'RE ROUND THE BEND.
WHAT GOT YOU STARTED ON YOUR GRAND CRUSADE ANYWAY?
THE DOCTORS SAY I HAVE ONLY A FEW MONTHS TO LIVE.
I WANT TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION.
I... WANT TO MAKE THIS CITY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN.
OH, BOY.
I'LL OFFER YOU A DEAL. YOU KEEP QUIET ABOUT MY IDENTITY AND I'LL KEEP YOUR SECRET.
UNTIL I DIE, EH?
THAT'S RIGHT.
IF I READ ABOUT MYSELF IN THE MORNING PAPER, I'LL KNOW YOU BLEW THE WHISTLE ON ME.
I'LL RETURN THE FAVOR BY BLOWING IT ON YOU. LOUDER. MUCH LOUDER.

EARLY THE FOLLOWING DAY...
MATT! DID YOU HEAR? THOSE GUYS WHO BROKE INTO YOUR PLACE YESTERDAY--
--POLICE BALLISTICS LINKED THEIR GUNS TO THE MOB KILLINGS. THEY'RE THE MURDER SQUAD!
THEY'RE FINISHED!
GREAT. AND BROWN BETTER NOT REPLACE THEM.
UH, MATT... MATTY... THAT WAS THE GOOD NEWS. I'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS, TOO.
I'LL TELL YOU AFTER LUNCH.
FOR PITY'S SAKE, FOGGY! IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, SAY IT!
REMEMBER BRUNO? THE GUY I GOT OFF? ON THE TECHNICALITY?
HE KILLED ANOTHER LITTLE GIRL THIS MORNING.
END

WOLVERINE!

....BULLPEN BULLETINS.....

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Yes, I know it's well into 1983 as you read this, but it's being written on December 27th, 1982. We had a great year last year — our best ever, in fact, — which means that we *must* have been making more of you happy than ever before, and that's what really counts.

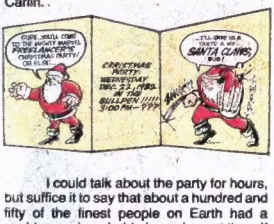
We're looking forward to another outrageous and wonderful year of legend-making, and all of us here wish the best of everything to all of you in the New Year!

BY THE WAY...

Contrary to rumors you may have heard, Marvel's sales went up again in 1982! Don't be misled! The simple fact is that we're number one, we outsell our nearest competitor better than *two to one*, and our lead *grew* in '82! Quoth Shakespeare, "Truth will out." Quoth Shooter, "The good guys are winning!" Quoth Stan Lee, "Excelsior!"

I WISH YOU'D BEEN HERE!

What a Christmas party we had last Wednesday! It was a who's who of comics, with mountains of food, oceans of drink, crazy, funny presents for all (plus some truly beautiful gifts) and live music by *The Burning Sensations*! We danced and carried on far into the night. I thought you might like to see our party invitation, created by topnotch assistant editor (and strange person) Mike Carlin. .



I could talk about the party for hours, but suffice it to say that about a hundred and fifty of the finest people on Earth had a world-record, no-holds-barred, great time. If there was a world record for togetherness and Christmas spirit, we'd have broken that, too.

When I said I wish you'd been here, I meant it — and somehow, some way, I'm going to arrange for a few of you folks out there to join us for next year's Christmas party. Maybe we'll have a contest or a drawing or something — I'm not sure yet. Watch this column for details.

DO WE DARE? SURE...

Not long ago, a reporter from the New York Times was here to interview me and Marvel top exec Jim Galton about Marvel's spectacular growth and success over the last several years, especially astounding (to *him*) because of the bad economy. After the interview we chatted informally. He wondered, since our super-hero comics are so popular, why we're trying out wild, new things like *U.S. 1*, *Crystar*, and our new, as yet untitled, romance series. Why not just crank out more standard super-hero fare? Hmm. Well, first of all, I told him, I don't think we publish *any* "standard super-hero fare". If there's a "typical" Marvel comic I don't know what it is. I mean *Ka-zar, the Savage* sure isn't anything like *The Amazing Spider-Man* — or anything else under the sun, for that matter. *Star Wars* isn't like *Conan, the Barbarian*, which isn't remotely like *The Fantastic Four*, which isn't like *The Defenders*, which, let's face it, is downright *bizarre*. Have we ever done *anything* "typical"? *Dazzler* sure isn't a typical comic book — I mean, the lead character wants to be a *singer*, not a crime-fighter or a heroine — and it's the number one female-lead comics publication in the land... by *far*! So I said, as I see it we're just doing what we've always done — defying convention, trying outrageous things, daring to let creativity run wild. He wondered whether or not the fact that there are already toys on the market would give an enormous boost to *U.S. 1* and *Crystar*. Frankly, I don't know and I don't care. People come to us constantly asking us to create comics series based on their TV shows, their toys, their movies, or whatever. Most of them we turn away — but once in a while, we'll be inspired by what they show us and we'll come up with a series idea based on their stuff that we think is great. We evaluate these ideas *as if there were no tie-in*, no extra exposure or publicity to be gained from their movie, TV show or toy advertising. We only go ahead with such a series if we think we've got something *great*. That way, if we're *right*, and we do a good job, we'll have a success we can really be proud of — the movie, toy ads or TV exposure is just an extra little plus. Let's face it, part of the joy of reading the *Star Wars* comic is the thrill of garnering tiny hints and clues about the next movie. If you're too old (or too young) to appreciate such things, then it won't matter that there may be toys on the market relating to your favorite series... but for those of us who like them, it's nice to have toys, models and such available. Is their anyone out there who doesn't have an Artoo-Deetoo wind-up figure, a G.I. Joe tank model, or, perhaps, a Spider-Man video game?

The fact is that bad ideas, or badly executed series won't make it — no matter what the source of the inspiration, and no matter how much extra promotion and publicity there might be. But *good* ideas, made into good series will be popular and will succeed — no matter where the ideas come from, no matter whether or not they're extra-heavily promoted, *and no matter how outrageous or ground-breaking they might be!*

Yeah, but *U.S. 1*? A story about a *truck driver*?

Pretty different. A gamble? Sure. But, yeah, we dare.

Besides, you'll tell us if we blow it. You always do.

MOVING RIGHT ALONG...

Time to get back to Editor in Chief-type, high-level decision making.

Hmm. What *do* I want for lunch?

Stay well,

Jim Shooter

THE HYPE BOX

GHOST RIDER #91 — It's the last issue of Johnny Blaze's title, and we mean the *last*! This double-sized keg of dynamite features the final conflict between Blaze and his demonic alter ego! And, while we don't want to give too much away, we *will* tell you this: you will *never again* see the Ghost Rider after this issue! Written by J.M. DeMATTEIS, with pencils by BOB BUDIANSKY and inks by DANNY BULANADI and KEVIN DZUBAN.

ROM #43 — Rom's greatest wish is realized: he is no longer imprisoned in his spaceknight armor. He has become Rom, the *man*! But as a man, he can now die — and Dr. Dredd is gonna try to see to it that he *does*! Written by BILL MANTLO, with art by SAL BUSCEMA, IAN AKIN and BRIAN GARVEY.

WHAT IF #39 — It's the Hyborian Age, and its greatest adventurer, **Conan the Barbarian**, comes face-to-face with a contentious visitor from our time — the Norse god of thunder, son of Odin — the mighty **Thor**! Be here for the landmark meeting between these two great mythological figures. Brought to you by ALAN ZELENETZ, RON WILSON and SAM De La ROSA.

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #100** — The **Thing**, and... **Ben Grimm**?! Double-sized last issue (Next month: THE THING #1)
- ☐ **KA-ZAR #26** — Special wraparound *photo-cover*
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #195**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #4**
- ☐ **SPIDER-WOMAN #50** — *Double-sized last issue!*
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #241**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #282**
- ☐ **THOR #332**
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #81** — *Double-sized last issue! (See Hype Box)*
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #6** — Art by HOWARD CHAYKIN and TERRY AUSTIN
- ☐ **U.S. 1 #2**
- ☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE #59**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #284**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #232**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #147**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #152** — Reprinting **Amazing Spider-Man #14** by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, featuring the first appearance of the *Green Goblin*
- ☐ **X-MEN # 170**
- ☐ **ROM #43** — See Hype Box
- ☐ **POWER MAN IRON FIST #94**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #12**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #255**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #130** — **Spider-Man**, the **Vision** and the **Scarlet Witch**.
- ☐ **IRON MAN #171**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #70**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #120**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #72**
- ☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU #125** — *Double-sized last issue!*
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #6**
- ☐ **WHAT IF #39** — Featuring **Conan** and **Thor** — together! (See Hype Box)

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #58**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #3**
- ☐ **BLIP #2**

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **COYOTE #1**

SPECIAL EVENTS

- ☐ **WARLOCK #6** — The conclusion of the saga of Adam Warlock!

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DENNY O'NEIL
EDITOR
LINDA GRANT
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Denny:

What continues to be striking about today's DAREDEVIL is the fact that he is a man desperate to make sense out of the world around him and, more often than not, failing. "Promises" kept this gritty sense of realism, and I was very much impressed with Alan Brennert's writing. Although Daredevil was not actually in much of the story, he was a presence that you felt nonetheless.

The artwork was as good as ever. My appreciation of Klaus Janson's work grows by leaps and bounds every issue he does. The use of multi-image panels to show movement has been forsaken lately and I was glad to see them used twice in this issue.

I have but one request and that is to keep Black Widow around — her addition is welcome to any book and especially here. I for one would love to see Natasha become a fixture in this book for a spell.

Thomas Long
Rt. 3 Box 146
Edwardsville, IL 62025

You are definitely not alone, Thomas — and she will be back!

Dear Marvel:

Frank Miller is a top talent and a tough act to follow, let alone replace. He has been primarily responsible, with the considerable artistic aid of Klaus Janson, for elevating DAREDEVIL to even greater heights of excellence. I sympathize with how difficult it must have been to see such a superb talent leave this book and have to replace him. I am, however, nothing short of elated with Alan Brennert's story for #192.

Alan's script was in all honesty on a par with the finest DAREDEVIL tales we've been treated to in the past recent years. In its honesty and realism it said things that we all needed to hear and think about — maintaining this title's status as a "very special" comic book.

Wallace Lee Hopkins
Box 428
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Dear Denny:

I was very impressed with DAREDEVIL #192. When I picked up this issue, I knew that the art by Klaus Janson would be good. The writing was an unknown quantity — but it was excellent. I love the fantasy of a hero in tights dispatching evil with style. And I love it even more when that fantasy is counter-balanced by real things: cockroaches in the cupboard, unmanageable down payments, and an inability to give our loved ones what they want. Brennert's story actually had the characters reacting to one another rather than simply spouting dialogue to keep the plot moving. The Kingpin's reminding Daredevil of his own past manipulations was a very nice touch. I've read that it has not yet been decided who will be DD's permanent writer, but put me down for Alan Brennert.

Joseph Wiitz
2020 Revere #5
Houston, TX 77019

Sorry to say, Joseph, Alan Brennert was just pinch-hitting. He is already committed to a very busy schedule — but maybe we can cajole him into scripting another story!

Dear Denny:

The art in #192 looked blurry and indistinct. The clear lines that can be found in almost every other comic book were not present. The characters were remarkably unhandsome and un-beautiful. Everything seemed dark and gloomy. In short, the art was perfect. Klaus Janson should continue drawing this book for a long time. Daredevil lives in a filthy, gloomy, hopeless world — and the art conveyed exactly that type of mood.

The plot surprised me. It dealt with two people who love each other. Why is this surprising? Because real love does not exist in comics. Daredevil, for example, has been "in love" four times. Two women (Karen and Natasha) left because they did not want to commit themselves to a relationship that was not always fiery and romantic. A third (Elektra) deserted him because she was not willing to share her tragedies with Matt. The fourth (Heather) was driven away because Matt was not willing to share his personal thoughts with her. The moral of all this seems to be that love is a brief, enjoyable experience which should not be taken seriously. People who are silly enough to become really open with their partners only get hurt because their mate will desert them in hard times (or die).

DD #192 showed that this was not true. Two people really loved each other. There was little passion in their marriage and they were not very happy with their lives — but they did not even think of leaving each other. Ben and Doris Urich were willing to survive the hard times together. It was very uplifting to be told that a love like that could exist in a world as filthy and corrupt as that one.

This story, although not spectacular or brilliant, was good, and it was worth the money I paid for it.

Julie Lynne Shalack
20 Kingsley Drive
Englishtown, NJ 07726

Dear Denny:

Re: DAREDEVIL #192

Thanks for the best love story I've ever read in some time.

Don Schenk
218 S. 15th St.
Apt.2
Allentown, PA 18102

Dear Klaus and Alan:

Some comments on DD #192:

I am glad you have kept Ben Urich as a character in this strip. Having someone who knows DD's dual identity aside from other super heroes gives hornhead a good opportunity to blow off some steam about how he feels about his life and his careers.

You have done a good job of showing Daredevil's powers. The way he took out the motion detector was interesting, but I am surprised that the system did not take the destruction of one of the monitors as an abnormal event which should signal an alarm.

I am getting a bit tired of the way DD goes to the Kingpin so much for information and help. Obviously he has access to a lot of information, but I keep thinking that one of these days Daredevil is going to get fed up with the Kinpin's role in the city power structure and go after him. I hope that the similarities between these two strong characters will eventually lead Daredevil to try to divorce himself from his foe/collaborator.

I hope Matt can get his relationship with Foggy straightened out. He has spent so much time as Daredevil lately that he seems to have let his private life deteriorate. I feel that this is leading him to a somewhat warped perspective wherein he is losing touch with how to deal with people tactfully.

As for the art, I have enjoyed Klaus's work for years. He is one of the most powerful inkers in the industry. Lately he has had a chance to show us his ability with pencils as well. While I admit that I miss Frank Miller's influence on this book, Klaus is still maintaining a high artistic standard for this fine comic. Keep up the good work.

J. Kenneth Riviere
932 Austin Ave., N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30307

Dear Denny:

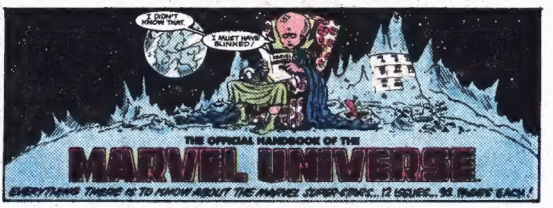
"Promises" was a touching, warm, human and poignant story. Don't ever do that again, or you've lost yourself one loyal reader. Stick to the action material, guys.

Jeremy Megraw
200 Haven Ave. apt.1A
New York, NY 1003

Let's get this straight, Jeremy. You're complaining because the issue was *good*? Here's another way of looking at it...

Dear Marvel:

Klaus Janson's detailed, moody art in issue #192 was perfectly matched by Alan Brennert's script, one dealing with everyday problems and relationships. This story brought a tear to my eye and left a lasting image in my memory. Keep the quality of DAREDEVIL as high as this issue, and you will have a faithful reader for life.

Grant Seeley
5912 Harlow Drive
Bremerton, WA 98312

NEXT: Wolverine. Be there.